

NEWS RELEASE
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GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS *ARTS EDUCATION WEEK* IN WASHINGTON

CELEBRATE ARTS EDUCATION

Olympia, WA – Governor Chris Gregoire has proclaimed May 14-20, 2006, as *Arts Education Week* in Washington.

The Governor's proclamation serves as a spotlight for the collective efforts of arts educators throughout Washington and highlights the importance of learning in and through the arts as part of every student's K-12 education.

"We are delighted to have this recognition of the importance of arts education from Governor Gregoire," said Una McAlinden, Executive Director of ArtsEd Washington. "It is an important catalyst to build community awareness of the crucial role of arts as part of a complete and balanced education."

Arts Education Week is an opportunity for schools and communities around the state to recognize the value of arts education, celebrate local arts education achievements and to broaden and strengthen arts education efforts in order to ensure high quality arts education for all students.

There are several *Arts Education Week* events scheduled around the state. Monday, May 15, the Washington State Arts Commission's *Arts Education Convening* will take place in the Tri-Cities. Thursday, May 18, ArtsEd Washington will hold its annual meeting in Seattle. Friday, May 19, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will host the *33rd Annual Superintendent's High School Art Show* in Olympia.

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Throughout the week Barnes & Noble bookstores will have displays featuring arts education books.

"Great things are happening in arts education in Washington," said AnnRené Joseph, Arts Program Supervisor, OSPI. "We hope arts education accomplishments will be celebrated in schools and districts across the state!"

School and community arts education programs can connect to this celebratory event by tying their programs into Arts Education Week.

To learn more about arts education and how to get involved visit the [Washington State Arts Commission](#) website at www.arts.wa.gov or call 360-586-2418.

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